The C4 Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 1 August, 1993
First Printing

Welcome to the first issue of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club's Newsletter. (I've abbreviated the club name to C4 because otherwise the full name is quite a mouthful.) I hope this will be the first of many more issues to come.

The first general membership meeting of our new club was held at the ANA Baltimore Convention on Friday, July 30, 1993 at 1:00 pm. Member turnout was very strong, with more than 60 persons attending. After about an hour's discussion of various issues important to the future of the club members made several decisions which I will describe below.

But first, remember, this is your club. Any decisions taken that you don't like, or think you can improve upon, can be altered by a majority vote. So, don't just accept what you read below. Let me know your opinions about what went on at the first meeting. This is especially for those members who were not at the meeting. Our club is going to be run democratically and your voice counts. We're small enough that every member can have his/her voice heard and considered.

FIRST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Attendees at the first meeting voted overwhelmingly to establish a club completely separate from EAC (The Early American Coppers Club). Only three members voted to make our club a sub-set of EAC. Accordingly, our club will maintain informal liaison with EAC. Membership in C4 and EAC is not mutually exclusive. In fact, almost all members of C4 are already also members of EAC (if you're not, consider joining EAC). On the issue of the relationship between our club and the Colonial Newsletter Foundation (CNL) members appeared divided. Some wanted our club to become a sub-set of CNL, others wanted complete autonomy. No one wanted to do anything that might jeopardize the health and future of CNL. This issue remains open and only the future can tell how things will work themselves out. I talked to Jim Spilman after the meeting. He was congratulatory about the apparent strength of the new club and asked for a copy of this newsletter, parts of which he may incorporate in a future issue of CNL.

Members were unanimous in voting for an independent newsletter to be issued by our club. All members felt that this was needed, to cover club announcements, notes of future meetings, and such general club business. Many members felt that the newsletter would fill needs not currently met elsewhere, including such topics as less formal articles on colonial coin subjects, notices of upcoming auction sales, auction sale reviews (my favorite), post sale results, notices of new discoveries, and other topics of interest to readers. Some members wanted to include lengthy scholarly articles while others wanted to

keep topics lighter. Again, no one wanted to siphon off the CNL's article base and everyone expressed appreciation for the CNL's ongoing leadership in scholarly colonial numismatics.

To cover costs associated with mailings of the newsletter and any other informational material sent by mail members voted to donate $2 each to the club's ad hoc treasury. A total of $112 was collected by the end of the meeting. Another member gave $2 the next morning, so the current balance in our treasury is $114. I'd be grateful if members who didn't make a $2 donation would do so.

Members voted unanimously to create a structured club, with traditional officers and a formal dues structure. The founding members of C4 originally intended the club to be very loosely structured and many of you received letters from me to that effect. However, members appear to want our club to be like most others.

In order to put members' wishes for structure in effect a steering committee was created by vote of the members to make decisions on these and related issues. A call for volunteers for the committee led to 17 members signing up to form the committee. The general membership voted Michael Hodder as committee chairperson. This was about as democratic as we could make it. Those members who didn't want to serve on the committee, and those who signed up but did not show up for the meeting, can be assumed to have agreed to the decisions taken subsequently by the steering committee. However, as I said earlier, this is your club and if you don't agree with anything we've done on your behalf, say so.

STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The steering committee met at 8:30pm Friday, July 30. Members came and went so this roster may not be complete, but to the best of my memory the following members were present: Henry Bergos, John Griffee, Michael Hodder, John Kraljevich, Jr., Craig McDonald, Bob Metzger, Spencer Peck, Dr. Angel Pietri, Tom Rinaldo, Jeff Rock, Mary Sauvain, Donald Scarinci, Bill Swoger, and Steve Tanenbaum. The meeting lasted until 11:00pm and was very productive. A vote of thanks is due the committee members for their efforts and commitment to our club.

The following actions were taken by the committee on behalf of the general membership. Temporary officers were also elected. All these acts are subject to ratification by the general membership at the next general meeting, ANA Detroit.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

Five regional representatives were chosen. They will be responsible for communications with members in their geographical areas, including handling mail requests for information and membership. They will also represent our club at meetings held at coin shows in their areas. The first four hold the temporary rank of Vice President. The regional reps and their addresses are:

Mary Sauvain	John Griffee
Tom Rinaldo	Bill Swoger

Michael Hodder

Please address all correspondence to your regional representative. It's their responsibility to serve as local contacts for members in their areas. They will periodically inform the president pro tem of members' concerns, interests, and wishes for the club. You can also contact Michael Hodder if you want to, but please go through your local rep first.

Michael Hodder agreed to serve as club president and treasurer pro tem. Mary Sauvain was elected parliamentarian and will act as procedural moderator at all future steering committee meetings, as well as the next general membership meeting at ANA Detroit. John Kraljevich, Jr. accepted the position of club historian and archivist. John will keep the club's records and notes of meetings. He doesn't know it yet, but as of now he's also our club secretary! Jeff Rock agreed to serve as the club's public relations and publicity person, responsible for press and news releases.

A by-laws committee was elected, charged with drafting a set of club rules and regulations. The rules will be circulated to all members when they are written and will be adopted only on a majority vote of all members. By-laws committee members include: Henry Bergos, Craig McDonald, John Kraljevich, Jr., Don Scarinci, and Bill Swoger.

REGIONAL CLUB MEETINGS

The steering committee decided that it would be a good idea to hold regional meetings of the club at several upcoming local coin shows. Please check your coin newspapers for dates. The following shows will have mini-meetings of C4 under the moderatorship of the following steering committee members:

FUN Show	John Griffee
Long Beach	Tom Rinaldo
Parsippany, NJ Show	Henry Bergos Spencer Peck
Bay State Show	Michael Hodder
Central States	Bill Swoger

Bill Swoger also agreed to coordinate the club's presence at ANA Detroit when that show's date approaches.

Before the next general membership meeting at ANA Detroit you will be asked to ratify the by-laws drafted by the by-laws committee. This will be done by mail. There will also be elections for the offices established by the by-laws. You will have ample time to decide if you want to run for any of the offices to be set up.

The steering committee agreed to meet again at 7:30pm, September 8 in New York City, to continue working on the club's behalf. We got off to a running start at ANA Baltimore and we don't want to lose our momentum. With a lot of hard work, the steering committee can deliver to the membership a fully functioning club in place by ANA Detroit.

Before the next general meeting you will receive a questionnaire asking for your opinions about many different issues, such as whether you want your name and address published in this newsletter, whether the mailing list should be used for commercial purposes, what your collecting areas of interest are, and so on.

MEMBERS' NEWS

John Kraljevich, Jr. presented a talk at the Numismatic Theater on French influence on early American coinage, including French colonial issues. By all accounts his talk was well received.

John Griffee won first place exhibitor's honors in the U.S. Coins category in the ANA competition for his exhibit on New Jersey's coinage. Congratulations, John!

Mary Sauvain will give a talk on beginning collecting colonial coins at the upcoming FUN show. Her talk will be videotaped by David Lissot, newly elected ANA governor, for David's series on U.S. coins.

Jeff Rock will give a talk at the ANA Detroit Numismatic Theatre on a colonial coins subject.

Bill Swoger urges all members to contact their congresspersons and support HR-654, a commemorative issue for the bicentennial of the first U.S. Mint issues.

COIN NEWS

Seen by your editor at the ANA convention were:

> **NJ 1786 Maris 24-M. R-8 (or 7+?).** A bit granular, marginally nicer than the other seen several years ago in a collector's hands. The new one was discovered earlier this year and is owned by a dealer.
>
> **CT 1787 Miller 16.5-p. R-7.** This one is counterstamped on the obverse with "P.T" in a prepared rectangular punch with serrated borders. It is the fifth seen by your editor (the Miller Sale piece, lot 1895, grades VF+, heavy obverse flaw, and is in a southwestern collection).

CT 1787 Miller 33.13-hh.2. R-7+ (or R-7?). This one was seen in Mike Ringo's hands.

CT 1787 Miller 33.28-Z.7. R-8 (or R-9?). This was in a coin envelope annotated "New Die Combination! I discovered it!"

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Your editor took a short side trip to the MD Historical Society during ANA week. The coin collection and its inventory card file were closed to the public because the registrar of the collection was "too busy" to make either available until Monday, August 2 (by which time all those bothersome coin collectors attending the ANA would have gone home!) Anyway, some progress was made with the collection and here are a few highlights, both in coins and early American medals: 1) John Eager Howard medal in silver, ex the Howard Family (removed from exhibition); 2) two silver Carroll of Carrollton medals, both with same flan thickness; 3) finest known Standish Barry threepence, in the collection since at least 1906.

George Kolbe's first ANA numismatic book auction held one surprise for your editor. Lot 233 was Lewis Mayer's "Catalogue of the Manuscripts, Maps, Medals, Coins...of the Maryland Historical Society", published in 1854. What's important about this booklet is twofold. First, the collection was then known as the Towson Collection. It had originally been formed in Europe by Joel Barlow (1754-1812), U.S. minister to France and author of the "Columbiad". At Barlow's death the collection passed to his brother in law Colonel Bomford, and on his death to General Towson. Towson engaged D.E. Groux to catalogue the collection and Groux published his booklet in 1852.

Using both Mayer's 1854 catalogue of the MD Historical Society's Collection and his notes of Groux's 1852 catalogue of the Towson Collection, the following numismatic items listed may be of interest: 1) two 1796 silver Seasons Medals (types not specified); 2) three Chalmers' shillings (types/varieties not specified); 3) a silver Tuesday Club medal, ex Capt. Fitzhugh Coll.; 4) a silver de Fleury medal; 5) a silver 1801 Jefferson inaugural medal; 6) a silver 1777 Horatio Gates medal. Readers will certainly recognize the importance of these notes.

The MD Historical Society suffered a theft at one time. Taken was a gold Carroll of Carrollton medal, along with other items. Consequently, coins and medals in Mayer's catalogue may not be in the collection, today. Any members living in or near Baltimore are invited to check out the collection as it exists, today, and send an inventory listing to your editor, for publication here.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The American Numismatic Society hopes to publish the 1992 Coinage of the Americas Conference collected volume by the end of 1993. The conference subject was Canadian coins. One article that may be of interest to club members is your editor's study of French colonial coinage, which includes a type catalogue.

Dave Bowers has begun work on a book about American coin treasures and hoards. Your editor will be the co-author. There will be many references to early American hoards and finds of stray coins. Publication may be in 1994.

Regional C4 club VP Bill Swoger's masterful study of Ephraim Brasher and his gold coinage will be published before the next ANA. Bill is taking advance orders now. From what Bill has told your editor, his study will offer convincing evidence for a much larger coinage than has been suspected before.

Mike Ringo's photographic attribution guide to Vermont coppers and counterfeit English halfpence will be published before the next ANA.

By the time you have received this you'll have the newest issue of the Colonial Newsletter. As an associate editor of the CNL I would like to encourage all C4 members to think about writing an article for CNL.

"Metallurgy and Numismatics", v. 3, Royal Numismatic Society special publication no. 24 (1993, recently published date by Spink & Son, Ltd., London) contains an extremely important article by Peter Gaspar entitled "Coining and Die-making Techniques in the 17th Century". The importance of this article to colonial numismatics will be discussed later in this newsletter.

UPCOMING COLONIAL COIN AUCTIONS

Your editor hopes to make this a regular feature of the newsletter. I've contacted all the coin auction firms and they've agreed to include the club on their pre-sale publicity release lists. The information you'll find in this feature will only be as complete as is supplied to me.

Bowers and Merena's September, 1993 sale will include colonial type coins as well as offerings of Connecticuts and Washingtonia.

Stack's September, 1993 sale will feature important colonial rarities, long runs of state coppers, type coins, and a collection of Charleston, SC slave hire badges.

Stack's March, 1994 sale will feature a long run of Connecticuts as well as Massachusetts silver and colonial type coins.

Stack's June, 1994 sale will include the second part of the Connecticut duplicates from the Ryder-Boyd Collection.

AUCTION REVIEWS

This will also become a regular feature of this newsletter, starting with the September auction season. It will be a no-holds barred review of auction cataloguing and will include some notes about prices realized for the better coins. Cataloguer's mistakes will not be overlooked, nor will slipshod or juvenile descriptions of good coins. Since your editor is a freelance cataloguer I'll be forced to acknowledge my own errors and omissions.

THE HILLYER RYDER-F.C.C. BOYD COLLECTION OF CONNECTICUT COPPERS

Hillyer Ryder (ca. 1851-1928) is well known to club members as the author of the 1919 ANS "Colonial Coins of Vermont" and "Copper Coins of Massachusetts". He was an avid collector of all colonial areas, including state coppers. He was probably the biggest single buyer in Elder's 1920 sale of the Miller Collection. Ryder's collection was bought intact by Wayte Raymond and F.C.C. Boyd in 1945, Boyd taking the colonials as his share for advancing Raymond part of the $30,000 purchase price for the Ryder collection. Boyd preserved the collection intact until his death in 1958. The collection then passed to a noted southwestern collector. Walter Breen studied Boyd's New Jersey's, which became the basis for his attributions and die emission sequences which he published in his "Encyclopedia". Duplicates from the Ryder-Boyd Collection of New Jersey and Vermont coppers were sold by Bowers and Merena in 1990 and 1991. Connecticut duplicates will be sold by Stack's during 1993 and 1994.

Here are some statistics and highlights from the Ryder-Boyd Collection of Connecticut coppers, including both the duplicates and the mainline collection (which is not for sale!): 111 lots pedigreed to the 1920 Miller Sale; 160 coins bearing Dr. Thomas Hall pedigrees; 8 red uncirculated specimens; 33 brown uncirculated coins; 88 pieces grading AU to Choice AU; 290 varieties in all. Included are 1786 Miller 2.3-T, ex Miller:2181; 1786 Miller 4.1-C, the third known to your editor, ex Henry Chapman in July, 1925; 1786 Miller 8-O.1, ex Miller:1858, does indeed exist and should not be de-listed; 1787 Miller 33.22-II, purchased privately by Ryder; and 1787 Miller 37.4-RR.1, ex Miller:2013.

PUNCH LINK EVIDENCE AND ATTRIBUTING EARLY AMERICAN COPPER COINS

After you've been collecting state coppers for a while you get to wanting to know more about the coins you've been buying. You want to know something about what mints struck them, who was running the mints and who their workers were, how many may have been struck, and so on. When you get really advanced you start noticing what look like die and punch links between different coins and you begin wondering exactly what these sorts of observations mean about who struck what when, where, and why.

The basic sources for the history of state coppers are still Crosby's "Early American Coins" and Breen's "Encyclopedia", plus Bressett's study of Vermonts in the 1976 ANS volume. To this can be added Breen's cataloguing of the 1975 EAC sale for Connecticuts, your editor's cataloguing of the Norweb and Ryder-Boyd sales (plus, maybe, Henry Garrett's and Harry Rescigno's New Jersey's). There are a bunch of others I could mention, but the ones I've listed include the really basic sources.

You'll soon come across the name of James F. Atlee. He was one of the signatories to the Machin's Mills partnership agreement. Crosby noticed what he believed were several punch linkages across different coin issues, linking many Vermont, New Jersey, and Connecticut varieties together. The most famous of all the punch links Crosby believed he had found was the "Broken A" punch. Crosby first linked

Atlee's name to the common punches, supposing that Atlee was an itinerant die sinker who worked in several different mints at different times, always using parts of the same set of letter punches on whatever dies he made.

As time went on, numismatists who studied state coppers and counterfeit British halfpence accepted Crosby's theory about Atlee and his set of letter punches. A few voices were raised against the belief, notably Damon Douglas', but these went unheard because the weight of scholarship was against them. By 1993 most coin books, Breen's included, have enshrined Atlee as the colonial era die sinker par excellence. The current edition of the standard "Red Book" even has an elaborate chronology worked out for Atlee's imitation British halfpence and places Atlee in some kind of loose partnership arrangements with Walter Mould, John Bailey, and Ephraim Brasher.

Your editor challenged the Atlee connection and disassembled his early chronology in a CNL article in v. 31, n. 1 ("The 1787 'New York' Immunis Columbia: A Mystery Re-ravelled"). This article was so complex and difficult to follow for most collectors that it has largely been overlooked. Now comes Peter Gaspar's "Coining and Die-making in the 17th Century" (see above section **Forthcoming Publications** for the citation). In an article that concentrates on the ascendancy of the screw press over the older rocker and roller die presses, Gaspar describes techniques current in 17th and 18th century France and England for what he calls "the mechanical reproduction of punches". Gaspar shows that punches for coining dies were routinely raised from master matrices. The shape of a letter A, for example, would first be cut by hand into a block of steel, the A being incuse in the block. This is called a matrix. After the matrix block was hardened, it was punched into another, smaller block, creating a raised impression of the letter A. This is called a punch. The beauty of this technique was that one matrix could raise many identical punches. All letter A's, for example, raised from the same matrix would look identical one to the other.

This technology was in common use in late 17th century English, French, and Scottish mints. It may even have been used to make roller dies in Spain. Three Scottish matrices for raising punches for coins issued 1675-1682 still survive, preserved in Edinburgh. John Craig, author of the standard history of the Royal Mint ("The Mint", recently replaced by "The New History of the Royal Mint", both of which should be in any advanced collector's library), notes on p. 204 that for the period 1700 onwards "Separate matrices were cut for each letter or number. A puncheon was raised by each matrix in the largest of the coining rooms." Craig goes on to say that the engravers did the matrices for the bust and reverse shield designs but apprentices did the matrices for letters and numbers.

We know that England was the chief source for letter and number punches bought by 18th century American silver and goldsmiths. Gaspar and Craig have shown that mass producing coin punches started in the 17th century and by 1700 was the common way to make coinage punches. Thus, we have a technology that had been in use for 100 years, and was the standard for over 80, in the chief mint of the country from which American engravers routinely bought their punches.

The logical conclusion is inescapable. When we see what look like identical punches on different colonial coppers we're probably looking at punches that really were identical. But, that doesn't necessarily mean, any longer, that only one set of punches was involved, all owned by one wandering die sinker named Atlee. In order to establish as a fact that all the punches were one man's we need more evidence than just the observation that they look alike. We know, now, that punches could, in some cases even should, look alike. We need some more data that links varieties together, especially ones that are found in different coin series, before we can create elaborate attribution structures and name names responsible for coining them.

We may also have to re-think Abel Buell's role in the Connecticut and Fugio series. Maybe he didn't actually hub Connecticut dies with his own puncheons, maybe he ordered them directly from some mass production punch making operation in England?

This sort of research information may be outside most collector's interest. Your editor thought it was important enough to pass on here, however. There's no field of U.S. numismatics so full of myth and legend than colonials.

THE FUTURE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The next issue of this newsletter will be written and distributed after the by-laws committee has drafted a final version of the club's rules and regulations. Your editor will enclose a copy of the by-laws with the next newsletter you receive. So, if you want another newsletter you'll have to bug the committee members to get busy!

Your editor would be happy to include your letters in future issues. Please keep them brief, to the point, and interesting to the general membership. No diatribes, complaints about coin prices, philosophical musings, or raves, please.

If you have an idea for an article on colonial coins of any kind let me know. At this point, if your article will be long and complex it properly belongs in the CNL. If it's short and generally interesting it can go here. Anything you send can and will be edited, so please include your full address and phone number(s); if I have questions it's easier on me to call and discuss them rather than writing a letter. It'll also save turn-around time.

Your editor will be eternally grateful if you'd send letters/articles/short takes on disk, preferably 1.44MB 3 1/2" format. Send in plain ASCII text or WordPerfect (any version higher than 4.2). That'll save a lot of keyboarding.

Remember that your editor has other commitments beside the newsletter. Please don't get upset if you don't get one issue each quarter. This is a new club and all our current arrangements are still ad hoc. Your regional VP's, committee persons, and I are trying our best to get this club fully structured and up and running by next ANA. Your patience now will pay off in the long run.

Like the earliest issues of many club publications this won't look very attractive. As time goes on, either your editor will get better at creating a decent looking publication or a new editor will take over who has the experience needed. Think about it. If you have a desire to expound to an unseen audience and you've got some publishing/printing/page layout experience, as well as time on your hands and some knowledge of colonials, consider putting your name up for the job.

MEMBERS NEW AND OLD

Announcements of the new C4 club have been posted on several different electronic systems. Response has been good, so far six new members have signed up. As of August 4, 1993 the club has 97 members! Not bad for an underpublicised word-of-mouth coin club five days after its inaugural meeting.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND SERVICES

There are three electronic bulletin boards or services that have coin forums or topics you might want to know about. If you missed the two presentations at ANA last week on these subjects here's some information you might find useful.

CompuServe Information Service. Has a coin forum run by Bob Foppiano and the ANA's own on-line presence hosted by Phyllis Phlegar and Hal Day. Lots of discussion of general coin topics, sometimes colonials. Has library files available for downloading, as well as coin pictures you can capture and use. Information and membership kits are available in most bigger bookstores and chains, the cost is credited towards your account once you join up. CIS is a huge service with lots of forums on virtually every possible topic and is well worth the membership.

National Videotex Network. Has the numismatic collectors forum run by Larry Mitchell, who founded the first U.S. bulletin board dedicated exclusively to coins. Messages and files on NVN are generally more sophisticated than on CIS and the intellectual tone is higher. Colonial coins are an occasional topic but you'll find the CNL Index on line. Call 1-800-336-9096 for a free information kit.

InterNet. For those of you with access to the 'Net you'll find a coin topic on coins@uni.edu. Send mail to this address and join.

Prodigy has a coin forum which, I'm told, is quite active and also has the ANA board, as does CIS. I do not subscribe to Prodigy so I have no more detailed information than this to offer.

If you want to contact your editor with e-mail or an article or letter for the newsletter my address on CompuServe is 73767,606; on NVN mail to mhodder; on the InterNet to mhodder@world.std.com. Depending on how the membership feels about this, your editor may want to post a read-only copy of the newsletter on CIS, NVN, and the 'Net.

FOR NUMISMATIC BIBLIOPHILES

KEEP THIS ISSUE!! Remember how tough it is to get original v.1, n.1 copies of "Penny Wise" or the CNL!?! If, as I suspect, this club will outlast many of us, original copies of its early newsletters will have some sale value in the future.

This newsletter was written between August 1 and 4, 1993. One hundred copies were "xeroxed" at the Blacksmith Printers in Wolfeboro, NH. Of those, 97 were mailed to members. These are the "First Printing" copies. After the 100 copies are gone requests for a back issue or replacement will be supplied with a "Second Printing" copy. Members joining after the 100 are gone will receive a "First Printing" copy, which is only fair. Please take good care of your copy, there's only one to a customer. If you've moved and your mail hasn't followed you, I'll send you a replacement "First Printing" copy.

Colonial printers were pretty clever at putting security symbols on their printing plates to deter counterfeiters. Your editor has adopted similar measures for this and future newsletters. Photocopying a "First Printing" copy will not perfectly reproduce these security symbols. A word to the wise.

OTHER FEATURES

If there's something you'd like to see in this newsletter that isn't here now, please let me know. A Question and Answer Forum would be interesting, for example. A Letters to the Editor would be good, too. This is your newsletter, so let your editor know what you want it to become. Otherwise it'll soon turn into my soapbox and you'll quickly get bored with it.

Laus deo, finita est.

Michael Hodder
Editor pro tem
Wolfeboro, NH
August 4, 1993